

Listing Of The Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~controlling~~  
programming a communications system, comprising:  
providing a list of ~~one or more~~ action signal icons, each  
action signal icon corresponding to an action signal that may be  
provided;  
selecting at least one of the action signal icons to  
indicate a selected action signal; and  
associating ~~the~~ a trigger signal with the selected action  
signal so that when the trigger signal is next received, the  
action signal is automatically sent.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the  
communications system is an intercom system.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the  
communications system includes a user communication device  
capable of providing a trigger signal.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the  
communications system is an intercom station.
5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the  
communications system is a paging system.
6. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the  
communications system is a telephone system.
7. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the  
communications system is a conference system.

8. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the communications system is a media retrieval system.

9. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the communications system is a time tracking system.

10. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the communications system is an event tracking system.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the list of one or more action signal icons is provided via a monitor.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the list of one or more action signal icons is provided using a graphical user interface.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein selecting at least one of the action signal icons includes moving an identifying icon displayed on the monitor until the identifying icon coincides with one of the action signal icons.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein associating the trigger signal with the selected action signal includes instructing the controller to provide the selected action signal if the trigger signal is provided.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein one of the action signals is a serial message.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the trigger signal is a serial message.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
providing the trigger signal; and  
providing the selected action signal.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising:  
identifying a device portion associated with the provided  
trigger signal;  
formatting the selected action signal to include the device  
portion of the provided trigger signal.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising:  
determining whether the provided trigger signal includes a  
place/end string;  
determining whether a line of communication is open;  
if it was determined that the provided trigger signal  
includes a place/end string and a line of communication is open,  
closing the line of communication.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising:  
determining whether the provided trigger signal includes the  
place/end string and a device portion;  
if it was determined the provided trigger signal includes  
the place/end string, opening a line of communication to a device  
corresponding to the device portion.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein  
the trigger signal is provided by ~~the~~ a user communication  
device.

22. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the action  
signal is provided to a programmable logic controller.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~controlling~~  
programming a communications system, the communications system  
having a controller capable of providing an action signal, the  
method comprising:

providing a list of ~~one or more~~ trigger signal icons, each  
trigger signal icon corresponding to a trigger signal that may be  
provided;

selecting at least one of the trigger signal icons to  
indicate a selected trigger signal; and

associating the action signal with the selected trigger  
signal so that when the trigger signal is next received, the  
action signal is automatically sent.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the  
communications system is an intercom system.

25. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the  
communications system is a paging system.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein  
the communications system is a telephone system.

27. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the  
communications system is a conference system.

28. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the  
communications system is a media retrieval system.

29. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the  
communications system is a time tracking system.

30. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the communications system is an event tracking system.

31. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the controller is a computer.

32. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the list of one or more trigger signal icons is provided via a monitor.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein the list of one or more trigger signal icons is provided using a graphical user interface.

34. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein selecting at least one of the trigger signal icons includes moving an identifying icon displayed on the monitor until the identifying icon coincides with one of the trigger signal icons.

35. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein associating the action signal with the selected trigger signal includes instructing the controller to provide the action signal if the selected trigger signal is provided.

36. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein one of the trigger signals is a serial message.

37. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the action signal is a serial message.

38. (Original) The method of claim 23, further comprising:  
providing the selected trigger signal; and  
providing the action signal.

39. (Original) The method of claim 38, further comprising:  
identifying a device portion of the provided trigger signal;  
formatting the selected action signal to include the device  
portion of the provided trigger signal.

40. (Original) The method of claim 38, further comprising:  
determining whether the provided trigger signal includes a  
place/end string;  
determining whether a line of communication is open;  
if it was determined that the provided trigger signal  
includes the place/end string and a line of communication is  
open, closing the line of communication.

41. (Original) The method of claim 38, further comprising:  
determining whether the provided trigger signal includes the  
place/end string and a device portion;  
if it was determined the provided trigger signal includes  
the place/end string, opening a line of communication to a device  
corresponding to the device portion.

42. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the trigger  
signal is provided by a user communication device.

43. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the action  
signal is provided to a programmable logic controller.

44. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture  
comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable  
program code instructions embodied therein to cause a computer to  
associate a trigger signal with an action signal, the  
instructions having:

a computer readable program code module to provide a list of ~~one or more~~ action signal icons, each action signal icon corresponding to an action signal that may be provided;

a computer readable program code module to provide a list of ~~one or more~~ trigger signal icons, each trigger signal icon corresponding to a trigger signal that may be provided;

a computer readable program code module to receive a selection of one of the action signal icons;

a computer readable program code module to receive a selection of one of the trigger signal icons;

a computer readable program code module to associate the action signal corresponding to the selection of one of the action signal icons with a the trigger signal corresponding to the selection of one of the ~~action~~ trigger signal icons, so that when the trigger signal is next received, the action signal is automatically sent.

45. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 44, wherein the list of one or more action signal icons includes action signal icons corresponding to action signals for an intercom system.

46. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 44, wherein the list of one or more action signal icons includes action signal icons corresponding to action signals for ~~an~~ a paging system.

47. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 44, wherein the list of one or more action signal icons includes

action signal icons corresponding to action signals for a telephone system.

48. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 44, wherein the list of one or more action signal icons includes action signal icons corresponding to action signals for a conference system.

49. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 44, wherein the list of one or more action signal icons includes action signal icons corresponding to action signals for a media retrieval system.

50. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 44, wherein the list of one or more action signal icons includes action signal icons corresponding to action signals for a time tracking system.

51. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 44, wherein the list of one or more action signal icons includes action signal icons corresponding to action signals for an event tracking system.

52. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 44, wherein the list of one or more trigger signal icons includes trigger signal icons corresponding to trigger signals for an intercom system.

53. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 44, wherein the list of one or more trigger signal icons



includes trigger signal icons corresponding to trigger signals for ~~an~~ a paging system.

54. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 44, wherein the list of one or more trigger signal icons includes trigger signal icons corresponding to trigger signals for a telephone system.

55. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 44, wherein the list of one or more trigger signal icons includes trigger signal icons corresponding to trigger signals for a conference system.

56. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 44, wherein the list of one or more trigger signal icons includes trigger signal icons corresponding to trigger signals for a media retrieval system.

57. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 44, wherein the list of one or more trigger signal icons includes trigger signal icons corresponding to trigger signals for a time tracking system.

58. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 44, wherein the list of one or more trigger signal icons includes trigger signal icons corresponding to trigger signals for an event tracking system.

59. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 44, wherein the code module to provide a list of one or more action

signal icons is capable of providing the list of one or more action signal icons to a monitor.

60. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 59, wherein the code module to provide a list of one or more action signal icons includes a graphical user interface.

61. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 60, wherein the graphical user interface is capable of allowing an individual to move an identifying icon displayed on a monitor to make the identifying icon coincide with one of the action signal icons.

62. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 44, wherein the code module to provide a list of one or more trigger signal icons is capable of providing the list of one or more trigger signal icons to a monitor.

63. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 44, wherein the code module to provide a list of one or more trigger signal icons includes a graphical user interface.

64. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 63, wherein the graphical user interface is capable of allowing an individual to move an identifying icon displayed on a monitor to make the identifying icon coincide with one of the trigger signal icons.

65. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 44, wherein the code module to associate the action signal with the trigger signal includes instructions capable of causing a signal

provider to provide an action signal corresponding to the selection of one of the action signal icons if the associated trigger signal is provided.

66. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 44, further comprising a computer readable program code module to identify a device portion of the associated trigger signal, when the associated trigger signal is provided, and format the associated action signal to include the device portion.

67. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 44, further comprising:

- a computer readable program code module to determine whether a received trigger signal includes a place/end string;

- a computer readable program code module to determine whether a line of communication is open; and

- a computer readable program code module, to close the line of communication, if it was determined a line of communication is open and the received trigger signal includes a place/end string.

68. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 44, further comprising:

- a computer readable program code module to determine whether the received trigger signal includes a place/end string and a device portion;

- a computer readable program code module to open a line of communication to a device corresponding to the device portion, if the received trigger signal includes the place/end string.

69. (Currently Amended) A communications system,  
comprising:

a user communication device capable of providing a trigger  
signal;

a communicating controller capable of responding to an  
action signal;

a master controller in communication with the communicating  
controller and the user communication device, the master  
controller being controlled by computer executable code for  
selectively associating the trigger signal with the action signal  
so that the action signal is automatically provided to the  
communicating controller if the trigger signal is provided by the  
user communication device.

70. (Original) The system of claim 69, further comprising  
a monitor in communication with the master controller, the  
monitor being capable of displaying a trigger signal icon  
corresponding to the trigger signal, and capable of displaying an  
action signal icon corresponding to the action signal.

71. (Original) The system of claim 69, wherein the  
computer executable code includes a graphical user interface to  
facilitate selectively associating the trigger signal with the  
action signal.

72. (Original) The system of claim 69, wherein the master  
controller is capable of identifying a device portion of a  
received trigger signal, and capable of formatting an action  
signal to include the device portion.

73. (Original) The system of claim 69, wherein the master controller is capable of (a) determining whether a received trigger signal includes a place/end string, (b) determining whether a line of communication is open, and (c) closing the line of communication if it is determined a line of communication is open and the received trigger signal includes a place/end string.

74. (Original) The system of claim 69, wherein the master controller is capable of (a) determining whether the received trigger signal includes a place/end string and a device portion, and (b) opening a line of communication to a device corresponding to the device portion, if the received trigger signal includes the place/end string.